

astrous dominion of Napoleon. In the interior of France no idea could possibly be formed of the desolation caused by this measure in countries which existed by commerce; and what a spectacle was it to the destitute inhabitants of those countries to witness the destruction of property which, had it been distributed, would have assuaged their misery!

Among the emigrants whom I was ordered to watch was M. de Vergennes, who had always remained at or near Hamburg since April, 1808. I informed the Minister that M. de Vergennes had presented himself to me at this time. I even remember that M. de Vergennes gave me a letter from M. de Eemusat, the First Chamberlain of the Emperor. M. de Eemusat strongly recommended to me his connection, who was called by matters of importance to Hamburg. Residence in this town was, however, too expensive, and he decided to live at Neumtihl, a little village on the Elbe, rather to the west of Altona. There he lived quietly in retirement with an opera dancer named Mademoiselle Ledoux, with whom he had become acquainted in Paris, and whom he had "brought with him. He seemed much taken with her. His manner of living did not denote large means.<sup>1</sup>

One duty with which I was intrusted, and to which great importance was attached, was the application and execution of the disastrous Continental system in the north.<sup>2</sup> In my correspondence I did not conceal the dissatisfaction which

<sup>1</sup> Madame de Rcfmusat was one of the Do Vorgennes family, being the daughter of the Minister of Louis XIV. *Bourrwting*. The person here referred to is not the Minister, who had died in 1787. M. de Jttfmusat's connection and correspondence with such *4mi/r&* probably had much to do with the distrust Napoleon Booms to have entertained towards him. Hence M. de Kc'musat did not get the promotion and appointment as Minister he considered his due, and to this we owe most of the bitter attack published by his clever wife when it was popular to abuse the man to whom M. de Keniusat had given personal service as Chamberlain in the days of the Empire.

<sup>2</sup> See Bougnot's account of the proceedings of one of the agents especially intrusted with carrying out this absurd system. "One fine morning he pounced on all the raw cotton that was to be found in the Grand Duchy (of Berg) and soiled the whole as English merchandise. A wicked enchanter, who had paralyzed the arms of 10,000 workmen with a wave of his wand, would have done just about as good a thing." An appeal to the Emperor was fruitless, "and this cruel measure, which I do not dare to call by its right name, was accomplished with all the remains of Imperial power" (*JBviignot*, vol. ii. pp. 42-44).